Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An endovascular laser treatment device comprising:

a ceramic spacer attached to an optical fiber and arranged near a distal end of the optical fiber, the spacer having an exposed surface capable of contacting an inner wall of a blood vessel to prevent the distal end of the optical fiber from contacting the inner wall of the blood vessel.

2 - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An endovascular laser treatment device comprising:

an optical fiber operable to be inserted into a blood vessel; and

a ceramic spacer attached to the optical fiber and arranged near a distal end of the optical fiber, the ceramic spacer having an exposed surface capable of contacting an inner wall of a blood vessel to prevent the distal end of the optical fiber from contacting the inner wall of the blood vessel.

9 – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The endovascular laser treatment device according to claim 8, further comprising a sheath adapted to be inserted into the vessel, wherein the optical fiber and the spacer are adapted to be inserted through the sheath.

13 – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An endovascular treatment method comprising:

inserting into a blood vessel a spacer arranged near a distal end of an optical fiber, the spacer being a ceramic spacer; and

applying laser energy through the distal end of the optical fiber while longitudinally moving the inserted optical fiber and spacer such that the spacer positions the distal end of the optical fiber away from the inner wall of the vessel to prevent the distal end of the optical fiber

from contacting the inner wall of the blood vessel, the application of laser energy causing closure of the blood vessel.

28 - 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method according to claim 27, after the step of inserting, further comprising deploying the spacer to position the distal end of the optical fiber away from the inner wall of the vessel.

31 - 35. (Cancelled).